



Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA)

Working to assist all victims of crime

Program Information:

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) established the Crime Victim Fund to provide financial assistance to support a variety of services and activities to assist victims of crime. Services under this grant program are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security as appropriate to their victimization.

Priority is given to programs providing assistance to the following four categories of victims of crime:

- Victims of Sexual Assault
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Victims of Child Abuse
- Under-Served Populations

Victim Assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following services:

- Crisis intervention
- Counseling
- Emergency shelter
- Criminal justice advocacy
- Emergency transportation
- Immediate Health and Safety
- Mental Health Assistance
- Assistance with Participation in Criminal Justice Proceedings
- Forensic Examinations
- Restorative Justice

Eligibility: The following entities in Maryland are eligible to submit no more than two (2) applications for VOCA Funding:

- State Government Agencies
- Local Government Agencies
- Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services Programs including Faith-Based
- Community Organizations

Match: Required - 20% non-federal match requirement (cash or in-kind)

Tentative Dates for the VOCA Program:

- NOFA posted: March
- Electronic and Hard Copy Due Dates: July
- Project Start Date: October 1

Requirements for VOCA funds:

- Use of volunteers
- Promotion of community efforts to aid crime victims
- Assistance to victims in applying for compensation
- Compliance with all State requirements
- Providing services at no charge, unless permitted to generate program income

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Technical Assistance Videos are available at <http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/>

To learn more please contact Kim Herndon (GOCCP) at (410)821-2838 or kherndon@goccp.state.md.us